



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply Refer to: 1792 (NV-050)

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U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management
ATTN: Dr. Jane Summerson
1551 Hillshire Drive M/S 011
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Dear Dr. Summerson:

My staff completed review of the Rail Alignment EIS. The following comments are provided for your consideration.

- 1 [We were unable to verify whether there are potential fish passage issues with the proposed crossings. All streams that are perennial and/or have fisheries issues should have a bridge or natural bottom crossing.]

I would like to see these the following areas more specifically addressed as to whether additional rights-of-way will be required and what type and location.

A.4.1.4 Impacts to Housing

- 2 [Nye County and more specifically Pahrump have recently experienced rapid and largely unanticipated growth, and the county has a limited housing inventory for absorption of new workers and worker families. However, because the estimated incremental increases in population during construction would be small, the increased demand for housing would also be small. Many construction workers would live in temporary construction camps and not need additional housing.]

Nye County has an adequate supply of undeveloped land to meet expected future demands. The incremental increase in population from repository-related activities would occur over a long period and be predictable, so the private sector housing market could readily adapt. In addition, the county has demonstrated concern about future growth and has taken action to acquire land and prepared plans for a comprehensive live-work community to facilitate and accommodate the orderly development of land use that repository activities could trigger. Nye County has also acquired land to facilitate and accommodate the orderly development of land uses that repository activities could trigger. The county's infrastructure system, particularly in Pahrump, is currently strained and at capacity. In addition, the desert setting of the county means developers are dependent on water rights, which are crucial to development. With a very limited supply of water and a rapidly growing population, the ability of the private or public sector to meet housing

demands remains speculative. Unless infrastructure systems, including water rights, can expand, adequate housing supply for anticipated growth could be compromised.]

C.7.2 PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF FINDINGS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ACTIONS

- 3 [Effects to the floodplain of Fortymile Wash would occur from improvements to the existing access road where it crosses Fortymile Wash. Construction activities could reduce the area through which floodwaters naturally flow. However, none of these actions would be likely to increase the risk of future flood damage, increase the impact of floods on human health and safety, harm the natural and beneficial values of the floodplains because there are no nearby human activities or facilities upstream or downstream that floods could affect. There are no delineated wetlands at or near Yucca Mountain.]
- 4 [We would like to see a weed management plan for the entire rail corridor to deal with the noxious weeds that may be along the rails in Nevada and all of the other states. This would be a great transporter of weed seeds.]
- 5 [BLM advises if any work is to occur within ephemeral channels, the Army Corp of Engineers and the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection needs to be consulted.]
- 6 [Where BLM lands are impacted, all cactus and yucca must be salvaged and transplanted out of harms way but still within the right-of-way.]

There were no other concerns or comments from BLM staff.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Jeffrey G. Steinmetz at 702-515-5097.

Sincerely,



Juan Palma
Field Manager